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25,000 FARM FAMILIES TO BE RESETTLED; RESERVE REGISTRATION TO BECIN

RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN WESTERN TERRITORIES -- Polska Ludova, No 25, 1 Mar 49

Under the direction of the Minister of Public Administration, a conference of the directors of the wojewodztwo branches of the PUR (Panstwowy Urzad Repatriacyjn, Mational Repatriation Board) and the chiefs of the wojewodztwo resettlement offices was held to determine the resettlement program for 1949.

Because of the conflicting interests between the farmer and the prewar sconomic system in Poland, the rural area of central Poland is greatly overpopulated, whereas some of the western territories are very sparsely settled. This overpopulation in the central area and the great settlement possibilities of the western territories create a situation favorable for a resuttlement program.

According to the program, it is estimated that about 25,000 farm families will be shifted from the former territories to the western territories. These will be farmers with no holdings, farmers with small- and medium-sized holdings, or farmers whose lands have been earmarked for reforestation by the Ministry of Forests. This resettlement program makes it possible not only to populate and unite the western territories with the mother country, but also to remodel the agricultural structure of the former territories.

This year the greatest effort will be made in settling certain areas of Szczecin Wojewodztwo, especially along the Oder, where it is planned to settle 12,000 families; 8,500 families will be settled in the Olsztyn Wojewodztwo, 2,000 in Wroclaw Wojewodstwo, 2,000 in Ziemia Lubuska, 17,000 in Bialystak, and 800 in Gdansk Wojewodztwo.

Referring to this problem, the Minister of Public Administration stressed the mesessity of acquainting the new settler with the social and economic advantage to be gained by moving from a one-acre farm to a large [organized] farm, even if it means being temporarily billeted with the present occupant.

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Knowing also the Polish peasant's prediction for his own cottage and the opposition that might be encountered in some cases from the present occupant to sharing his cottage, it is imperative that both be made to realize the benefits to be derived from a share in such farming.

The Pocial and political agents should make the farmers cognizant of the necessity of working the pocrly explaited areas of the western territory.

At present, there are only about 3,000 farms in the western territories which are utilized to the fullest extent. There are 7,900 farms on which 50 percent of the buildings have been destroyed and 10,969 farms on which more than 50 percent of the buildings have been destroyed.

The capacity of these farms in the western territory to absorb the new settlers will be greatly increased with full application of the investment plan. Up to 1 February, 32,000 farminges have already been repaired. The plan for village reconstruction in 1949 provides for the repair of 8,900 farm buildings at a cost of 1,435 million alotys. The greatest amount is to be spent in the Szczedia Wojewcdztwo, where it is planned to repair 2,872 farmhouses at a cost of 458 million alotys and in the Obsztyn Wojewodztwo, where repair of 2,419 farm buildings will be completed at a cost of 385 million alotys. The sums allotted for repairs can be used by the farmers to make his own repairs or the repairs can be done by the Village Peasant Self-Aid Cooperative. All investment credits are intended only for settlers coming into the western territories during November and December of 1948 and the let quarter of 1949.

To improve efficiency and productivity on these farms in the shortest time possible, much financial help is needed. Settlers who have reserved farms in the western territories have already received 221 million zlotys for purchase of stock. At present, additional credit of 175 million zlotys is being made available for the same purpose. Farmers with large families receive loans of 80,000 zlotys for the purchase of a cow and 110,000 zlotys for a house. Reports from the area indicate that the settlers are readily adjusting themselves to the program.

Medium-term credits for planting are also being made available to settlers moving into the western territories. It is estimated that the spring and fall planting will absorb 225 million zlotys. An additional 600 million zlotys in short-term credit have been made available for the purpose.

The settlers will be entitled to reduced tax rates and reduced payments to the Social Savings Fund. It is expected that all relief measures provided for in the decree on business taxes and additional relief in securing tex reductions and tax exemptions for the settlers will be carried out.

MILITARY HESERVE REGISTRATION TO BEGIN -- Zycie Werezawy, No 61, 3 Mar 49

From 21 March to 30 June 1949, medical examinations will be given as the preliminary step in the registration of all military reserve personnel. This new registration is necessary because of the loss of all military reserve personnel records in Warsaw and because of the mass resettling and repatriation programs in the postwar period.

At registration, the following records must be presented: identification, age, occupation, education, military service classification, military rank or title, and two 3 x 4 centimeter photographs. If original documents cannot be found, valid duplicates must be obtained.

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POPULATION AND AREA OF SZCZECIN GIVEN -- Gazeta Ludowa, No 40, 17 Feb 49

According to the city administration's report for 1948, the population of Szczecin, including the 40,000 increase in 1948, is now 177,800.

During the same period, the city also increased its size by absorbing extensive adjacent areas, making it the largest city in Poland, followed by Poznan (224 square kilometers), Wrocław (175 square kilometers), and Warsaw (142 square kilometers).

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